

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

Former Police Officer Convicted of Dealing in Firearms Without a License

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 29, 2008

San Diego, CA - United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced today that a federal jury in San Diego found Gilbert Castro, Jr., a veteran police officer with the City of Imperial in Imperial County guilty of five counts of Dealing in Firearms without a License and one count of Conspiracy to Deal Firearms without a License. Jose Luis Marchena-Ibarra, also charged in the indictment, is a fugitive.

According to the evidence presented at trial, during 2004 and 2005, defendant Castro agreed with co-defendant Marchena-Ibarra to deal in firearms without a license. Specifically, on numerous occasions throughout 2004 and 2005, the defendants sold various unregistered firearms to a confidential source. On one of these occasions, in addition to other firearms, defendant Castro sold an unregistered assault weapon to a confidential source. Moreover, evidence presented at trial revealed that on August 12, 2005, the

confidential source gave \$2,000.00 toward the purchase of the machine gun to Marchena, which Marchena then deposited into Castro's bank account. Castro returned the money to the confidential source a few days later, when the ordered machine gun became unavailable.

Castro is next scheduled to be in court for a status hearing on September 2, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. before Judge Marilyn L. Huff.

DEFENDANTS

Criminal Case No. 06-CR-13988-H

Gilbert Castro, Jr.

Jose Luis Marchena-Ibarra (Fugitive)

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count 1

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 922(a)(1)(A) - Conspiracy to Deal Firearms without a License, Maximum penalties: 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Counts 5-9

Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(a)(1)(A) - Dealing in Firearms without a License
Maximum penalties (per count): 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
Narcotics Task Force